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Memoirs of the Peabody Museum of American Archæology and Ethnology, Harvard University. Vol. I.—No. 1, Prehistoric Ruins of Copan, Honduras. A Preliminary Report of the Explorations by the Museum, 1891–1895. 4to. Cambridge, Mass: Published by the Museum, 1896.

The ruins of Copan are in the territory of Honduras, about twelve miles from the frontier of Guatemala, in the valley of the Copan River, and shut in by mountains that rise to a height of 3,000 feet. The valley is at an elevation of 2,000 feet above the sea.

When Stephens visited the ruins in 1839, they were buried in a great forest. To-day the valley is cleared. About thirty years ago, a colony from Guatemala cut down the trees, leaving only a few gigantic cedars and ceibas about the ruins of the temples.

The valley is a mile and a half in width and seven or eight miles in length, and the river Copan winds through it in a south-westerly direction. The principal ruins are on the right bank of the river, near the centre of the valley, and the stream, bending abruptly at this point, flows directly against them. For a long time, according to the *Report*,

> it has been making encroachments on the ruins, and the entire eastern side of the great pile known as the Main Structure has been carried away by it, leaving the interior exposed in the form of a cliff one hundred and twenty feet high. The whole of this elevation is artificial; pieces of pottery and obsidian knives can be picked out of it even at the water's edge. The river is subject to annual freshets, during which an immense body of water is thrown with great force directly against the opposing cliff, from whose face a fresh portion falls in each succeeding year. So swift is the current that little of this fallen material is left when the water subsides.

It was time that something should be done.

In 1885 Mr. A. P. Maudslay, an Englishman, mapped the ruins and made careful explorations. He took moulds of the principal monuments and has published the result of his studies in a form which makes it, in the words of the *Report*, at this date the most valuable contribution to the archæology of Central America.

In 1889 Mr. E. W. Perry obtained a concession from the Government of Honduras, for the exploration of the ruins and the formation of a museum at Copan. Mr. Perry in 1891 transferred his rights under the concession to the Peabody Museum, which drew up a plan of operations, and acquired, by an edict of the Honduras Government, the care of the antiquities of the country for a period of ten years, with the right of exploring the ruins and taking away one-half of the objects found in the excavations.

In the period 1891–1895 four expeditions were sent out, the third under Mr. Maudslay, who has done all in his power to further the work of the Museum.

The Report is illustrated by nine plates, the first being a large plan of the ruins, with descriptive text.

The Relations of the Gulf Stream and the Labrador Current. By William Libbey, Jr., D. Sc., Professor of Physical Geography, Princeton, N. J. (*With Plates.*) *Reprinted from the Report of the Sixth International Geographical Congress, held in London, 1895.*

The investigation of the relations of the Gulf Stream and the Labrador Current was begun by the U. S. Fish Commission in 1889, with the view of ascertaining whether the changes in the positions of these currents affected the movements of the schools of fish along our eastern coast. The plan adopted by Prof. Libbey was to run out a series of lines at intervals of ten minutes of longitude, extending to the southward from the New England coast, between the island of Nantucket on the east, and Block Island on the west. Upon these lines, at intervals of ten minutes of latitude, stations were located, upon which serial temperature and density observations were made, and simultaneously with these an hourly set of complete meteorological records was maintained.

A study of the temperature profiles obtained in 1891 showed that the lower part of the 50° line (representing the lower portion of the Gulf Stream) touched the edge of the continental platform and raised its temperature ten degrees. This had occurred also in 1890. If it continued in 1892 the conditions for the reappearance of the tile-fish (*lopholatilus chamæleonticeps*) would be reëstablished. In 1880 and 1881 this fish appeared on the New England coast in considerable numbers; but in the spring of 1882 the water from Cape May to Nantucket was covered with millions of dead and dying tile-fish, and from that time they disappeared.

The fish is probably a deep-sea tropical species and it is supposed to have followed the northward extension of a band of warm water. In 1892 Prof. Libbey found the tile-fish to the southward of Martha's Vineyard and all the way to the Delaware capes, and he explains its disappearance in 1882 by the withdrawal of the band of warm water under the pressure of a cold current. He notes the interesting fact that the dead bodies of the fish came to the surface in that year in a long crescent-like curve, which followed the line of the edge of the continental platform between Cape May and Nantucket.

The paper is illustrated by 21 coloured profiles of the water temperatures.